

Amendment to the Claims:

The claims under examination in this application, including their current status and changes made in this paper, are respectfully presented.

1 (currently amended). A method for operating a camera, comprising the steps of:
responsive to an operator action, detecting visual information from a scene;
evaluating the detected visual information relative to a human facial characteristic and a specified criteria;
continuing the detecting and evaluating steps; and
responsive to the evaluating step determining that the visual information from the scene includes information that is representative of a human facial characteristic and that satisfies a specified criteria, recording an a still image of the scene.

2 (previously presented). A method according to Claim 1, wherein said detecting step includes the step of detecting an image of radiation from the scene which includes the visual information representative of a facial characteristic.

3 (original). A method according to Claim 2, wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying in the image of radiation at least one pattern representative of a face, and evaluating the pattern relative to the specified criteria.

4 (original). A method according to Claim 3, wherein the specified criteria includes a size limit criteria, and wherein said evaluating step includes the step of rejecting each identified pattern which is representative of a face but which fails to satisfy the size limit criteria.

5 (original). A method according to Claim 2, wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying in the image of radiation a plurality of patterns each representative of a respective face, and evaluating each such detected pattern relative to the specified criteria.

6 (original). A method according to Claim 2, wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying in the image of radiation a plurality of patterns each representative of a

respective face, thereafter using a further criteria to select a subset of the patterns, and then evaluating only the selected patterns in the subset relative to the specified criteria.

7 (previously presented). A method for operating a camera, comprising the steps of waiting for an operator action, and responding to the operator action by:

detecting information from a scene, the information comprising an image of radiation from the scene;

evaluating the detected information by:

identifying, in the image of radiation, a plurality of patterns each representative of a respective face;

then selecting a subset of the patterns equal in number to a specified number; and

then evaluating only the selected patterns in the subset relative to a human facial characteristic and a specified criteria;

wherein the detecting and evaluating steps are performed in a continuing manner until a point in time at which it is determined that the information from the scene includes information that is representative of a the human facial characteristic and that satisfies a the specified criteria; and

recording an image of the scene corresponding substantially to the point in time.

8 (previously presented). A method according to Claim 7, wherein the selecting step also uses a prioritization criteria to select the subset.

9 (previously presented). A method according to Claim 1, wherein the specified criteria is whether an eye is open, and wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying at least one eye in the visual information from the scene, and analyzing whether each such identified eye is open.

10 (previously presented). A method according to Claim 1, wherein the specified criteria is whether a mouth is closed, and wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying

at least one mouth in the visual information from the scene, and analyzing whether each such identified mouth is closed.

11 (original). A method according to Claim 1, wherein the specified criteria is whether a face is oriented toward the camera, and wherein said evaluating step includes the steps of identifying at least one face in the information from the scene, and analyzing whether each such identified face is oriented to face substantially toward the camera.

12 (currently amended). ~~A The method according to Claim 1, further for operating a camera, comprising the steps of:~~

responsive to an operator action, detecting visual information from a scene;

evaluating the detected visual information relative to a human facial characteristic and a specified criteria;

continuing the detecting and evaluating steps;

responsive to the evaluating step determining that the visual information from the scene includes information that is representative of a human facial characteristic and that satisfies a specified criteria, recording an image of the scene; and

detecting audible sound from the scene; and

wherein the evaluating step also evaluates the detected audible sound relative to the specified criteria;

and wherein the recording step is responsive to the evaluating step determining both that the visual information from the scene includes information that is representative of a human facial characteristic and satisfies a first specified criteria, and that the detected audible sound satisfies a second specified criteria.

13 (previously presented). A method according to Claim 12, wherein the evaluating of the detected audible sound comprises determining whether the detected audible sound is representative of a predetermined word.

14 (previously presented). A method according to Claim 12, wherein the evaluating of the detected audible sound comprises determining whether the detected audible sound is representative of laughter.

15 (currently amended). A camera, comprising:
an operator actuatable element;
an image detector;
a memory for storing digital images; and
a control circuit, coupled to the operator actuatable element and to the image detector, and comprising:

a memory for storing still digital images; and
a processor, for controlling the image detector to detect visual information from a scene responsive to operator actuation of the element, and for evaluating the detected visual information relative to a human facial characteristic and a specified criteria, and for, responsive to the evaluating step determining that the visual information from the scene includes information that is representative of a human facial characteristic and that satisfies a specified criteria, recording an a still image of the scene in the memory.

16 (previously presented). A camera according to Claim 15, wherein said image detector detects an image of radiation from the scene.

17 (previously presented). A camera according to Claim 15, further comprising:
a microphone, coupled to the control circuit, for detecting audible sounds from the scene.

18 (original). A camera according to Claim 15, wherein the facial characteristic is an eye, and the specified criteria is whether the eye is open.

19 (original). A camera according to Claim 15, wherein the facial characteristic is a mouth, and the specified criteria is whether the mouth is closed.

20 (original). A camera according to Claim 15, wherein the specified criteria is whether a face associated with the facial characteristic is oriented to face substantially toward the camera.